

Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body

Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Governor's Forest Health Council**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

**November 12th, 2009
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Capitol Executive Tower
First Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

Minutes

Meeting Objective: To receive an update by State Forestry and task group members on the current status of the statewide assessment, to discuss key issues with Corbin Newman, to further plan the landscape-by-landscape survey of restoration progress across the state, to learn more about and discuss FLRA, to receive an update on and discuss WGA FHAC work, and to discuss Four Forests Restoration Initiative progress.

1. Call to Order ~ Ethan Aumack, Co-Chair

Ethan A., Don B., Brenda B., Victoria C., Wally C., Rob D., Steve G., Tom K., Michael N., Molly P. (*via tele-conference*), Todd S., Rob S., Ron W.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the November FHC meeting ~ Approved

- a. Changes made to posted October minutes per request from Vicki C. & Brenda B. pertaining to Assessments and FLRA.

3. Policy Advisor Natural Resources Brief ~ Mike Anable

- i. Reiterated Governor's commitment to the health of our forests; FHC was one of the first Executive Order's she signed
- ii. Vicki C. is a direct contact to the Governor; State Forester is a Cabinet Post
- iii. Mike A. advised FHC to continue efforts underway and keep site of the "big picture", need to think beyond the norms
- iv. Need to help Industry in creating jobs - Gov's office thinks that FHC has the opportunity to create restoration-based jobs, especially through the Four Forests Restoration Initiative.
- v. Mike spoke strongly of the need to restore forests and again, to create jobs in the process.

4. Discussion with Regional Forester ~ Corbin Newman

- a. Coordination Between USFS & FHC in Statewide Strategy
- b. Appreciation of Governor's Support
- c. Main Issues
 - i. Forest Health
 - ii. Water
 - iii. Endangered Species

- d. Major Challenges:
 - i. Money & Finding Resources
 - ii. Critical to be *Economically Sustainable* for long term success
- e. Need Feedback
 - i. Need to understand and be aware of barriers preventing moving forward
 - ii. There is lots of “talk” need to become less philosophical and have more action in treatments, time to move-on
- f. Sustainability is key

Question MN: How can APS expedite process for clearing activities?

CN: Reinvestment Act- they have deadlines speaking to this to follow to achieve timely results

Question VC: What does CN need from the forest service to break through this difficult period?

CN: Continue doing what you are doing i.e. Farm Bills, Statewide Assessment, and Landscape Reviews

- g. Expectations | Problems- Need to Bring to Light at Regional Level
- h. Health of forests is gaining attention at national level; understanding of critical need to take care of natural resources, forests, etc. It does have influence not just on individual interest but collectively come together from variety with common goal
- i. FHC has helped considerably in bringing attention to the Southwest

Question/Comment RS: Appears a large overlap with common interest— concerned “old way”(old way in this context refers to timber sales mostly north of Flagstaff) is coming back into play— not where we need to be going. Worried about litigation, timidity is prevalent. How do we get landscapes back into condition?

CN: Need to agree on what “restoration” looks like, the concept of “Demonstration Areas” is important to get buy in to avoid litigation and End Condition is what we should be concerned with; what needs to be done to restore landscapes should be done.

Question SG: Would region be interested in 2.4million acres FLRA landscape proposal?

CN: Yes, however the ultimate decision is at forest service level- match national \$ with regional. Full assessment of the 2.4 million-have to find a way to follow rules/regulations/laws and still accomplish what has to be done. They could suggest amendments in analysis process.

Comment TS: Concern that there is some resistance at regional level i.e. Corbin’s Directors; Leadership makes a difference to get out of this old way and encourage change and action

Comment VC: Need to look beyond obstacles for opportunity

CN: He will push his staff to go outside their “box”

Question RS: Climate Change; what do we do | what is the forest service doing about it?

CN: Agency working on multiple fronts and working with other agencies at the national level. It has to be adaptable. As knowledge is gained, it will change and that change needs to translate to the plan. Knowledge will change as we learn more and the strategy must be adaptable as new information is discovered.

Question BB: FLRA- how do you see it working out this year?

CN: Develop proposals –don’t wait for them to identify them and fund. Regular money can still go into regular work.

5. State Forestry Division Update and Presentation ~ Vicki Christiansen

- Assessment Project Status
 - Assessment Task Group ~ Steve Gatewood
 - Handout
 - Issues Outline (6) identified, (*not finalized*)
 - People & Forests
 - Ecosystem Functionality
 - Water & Air
 - Climate Change
 - Economics
 - Wild Land Fire
 - An online survey will be done
 - December 2nd workshop at AZ Game & Fish to be held
 - A description to be worked out within each to determine priorities
 - Still on track for January 2010 to get to strategy working team to develop actionable plan

Question EA: Is Arizona consistent with other states?

GB: Northeast & South are more consistent and have developed guidance to share. The West has (7) different regions so there is less agreement and more variations in methods.

VC: AZ is meeting the general national guidelines. The Farm Bill is worded to give states flexibility.

Question EA: Do we need a working group?

SG: We will bring to the January meeting what we hope to be a draft assessment and then determine the level of FHC involvement. To achieve the draft in January, there will be (4) outreach modes to obtain input:

- Major Groups
- Representatives within Sectors
- Public Session-December 2
- Online Survey, More Specific Questions

6. Landscape-by-Landscape Survey of Progress Towards Statewide Strategy Goals ~ Ethan Aumack

- a. Review ARRA Projects
- b. Review State Funded Projects
- c. Review Projects by Landscapes
 - i. Work that has occurred
 - ii. Work that has not happened
- d. Interest & perceived need to update the Statewide Strategy based on Landscape assessments as this is a “living document” and needs to be current
- e. Agreed desire for group to learn more about what is going on across the state in a systematic way to refine the Statewide Strategy, this is being implemented commencing January 2010
- f. Purpose is to gain knowledge of each Landscape as a whole and to understand how funds are being distributed and utilized as well as what is working, what can be done better, what is not working, challenges and ‘needs’ to achieve better results
- g. Will develop consistent approach to evaluate each Landscape

- h. Need to engage local communities to understand their activities & support needed
- i. Agreed to also develop a self-assessment for each Landscape of basic questions to provide to local community prior to visit to ensure visits are productive for all parties and valuable data is obtained
- j. Will have methodology identified in assessing each Landscape during visits and the updating of the Statewide Strategy after analyzing the results
- k. Planning Group formed to develop these documents including letter and self assessment questions for visitation of Landscapes. Participants:
 - i. Vicki C
 - ii. Glen B.
 - iii. Ethan A.
 - iv. Wally C.
 - v. Bruce G.
 - vi. Brenda B.
 - vii. Molly P.- Tribal

7. Presentation on the Forest Landscape Restoration Act ~ Brenda Burman

- 1. Draft by January 8th on plan
- 2. 2.4 million acres identified

Question BB: How will nuts & bolts be implemented?

CN: 3-5 proposals to region on FLRA not a lot of detail behind- focused around selection process not content. Need to get selections made.

8. Presentation on Western Governors Association Forest Health Advisory Committee Mtg. ~ Ethan Aumack, Molly Pitts, Todd Schulke

- i. Local & State interest converge with access to National
- ii. We don't have a specific task, no clear mission at this point thus a broad range of initiatives is on the table
- iii. Goal is to drill down to more specifics and identify priority scale
- iv. Ethan offered FHC approved policies in areas that have worked
- v. AZ showing up a step ahead in many areas
- vi. Synergy is good and a valuable exchange to bring 'best practices' back to individual states should result from these regional meetings
- vii. A suggestion given; if schedule permits, Ann from WGA visits quarterly to FHC meetings

9. Update Regarding the Four Forests Restoration Initiative ~ FFRI participants

- i. Tabled to January 2010

10. Meeting Schedule and Locations ~

- a. December – no meeting
- b. January 14th, 2010 – Tucson – location TBD- Brenda B. to coordinate
 - i. Discussed Climate Change Element | Tree Ring Lab Visit Night Before- Council Approved

11. Call to Public ~ Comments/Questions

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

Comment to CN: Do not underestimate your role, you can be very influential.

Question to CN: What is focus of FFRI?

CN: Focus should be devoted to creating the conditions to move from general to implementation. This is where the requirements have to be met. FFRI has millions of dollars allocated to achieve results.

12. Meeting Adjourned ~ 12:10p.m

Dated this December 4, 2009
Governor's Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>

